



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS and Partners Celebrate International Women's Day

05 March 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in collaboration with Ngaka Modiri District Municipality and Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality celebrated the International Women's Day Event last Friday, 02 March 2018.

The International Women's Day is a United Nations' initiative aimed at celebrating the achievements of rural women and is celebrated on 8 March annually since 1911.

The purpose of the International Women's Day is to recognise ordinary women who strive for sustainable self-development, self-realisation and emancipation as well as women who have spent a great percentage of their lives in poverty and struggling for resources.

"We have decided to celebrate the International Women's Day today as a build-up for the main event which will take place on the 8th of March and also as part of the Water Month celebration to highlight the challenges and successes rural women face with regard to issues of health and hygiene and sanitation," said Director for Gender and Disability mainstreaming Ms Phuthi Setati at the Department of Water and Sanitation.

About 300 women from the five local municipalities in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality gathered at the Ramotshere Moiloa local Municipality city hall to celebrate the occasion which served as an information sharing platform on issues of health and hygiene and sanitation challenges and successes.

Presenting the health and hygiene issues, Ms Motlagae Dithopo from Ngaka Modiri District Municipality encouraged women to continuously monitor water sources, practice personal hygiene and clean all water storage items like containers and Jojo tanks on regular basis. "Always clean your hands after every activity you engage on," said Ms Dithopo.

Ms Mangie Rakale from the Department of Water and Sanitation demonstrated handwashing techniques using tippy tap which assist to ensure that handwashing is practised with running water even in areas where there is no running tap.

"It is important to practise regular handwashing with soap using running water to avoid contamination. Tippy tap can assist in this regard. All you need is a two litter bottle and a straw," said Rakale.

Giving a keynote address, Councillor Yoliswa Sechwaro from Ngaka Modiri District Municipality reiterated the need to reduce, recycle and reuse water as a way of saving water. "We need to reuse water used for



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bathing for other purposes like gardening and flushing toilets. This will assist us to save water as there will be less consumption,” said Sechwaro.

As we mark the hundred and seventh year since the initial celebration of International Women’s Day, we need to heighten the empowerment of ordinary women who strive for sustainable self-development, self-realisation and emancipation as well as women who spent a great percentage of their lives in poverty and struggling for resources, said Sechwaro.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact: Departmental Spokesperson Mr Sputnik Ratau on 082 874 2942

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